

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of the claims, and replaces all earlier version and listings.

1. - 13. (canceled).

14. (currently amended): A radio communication apparatus comprising:
requesting means for requesting from a first communication apparatus
which manages a plurality of sets of group identification information, an assignment of a
group identification information ~~to manage for~~ a group formed [[from]] by a part of
communication apparatuses in a communication system;

inquiring means for inquiring of a second communication apparatus whether
the second communication apparatus participates in group communication using the group
identification information ~~assigned~~ transmitted by the first communication apparatus in
response to the request by said requesting means; and

communicating means for performing the group communication in the
group with the second communication apparatus on the basis of the group identification
information, in accordance with a response from the second communication apparatus in
response to the inquiry by said inquiring means.

15. (previously presented): The apparatus according to claim 14, wherein said communicating means performs multi-address calling in the group on the basis of the group identification information.

16. (previously presented): The apparatus according to claim 14, further comprising informing means for informing the second communication apparatus of the group identification information, in accordance with a response from the second communication apparatus to the inquiry by said inquiring means.

17. and 18. (canceled).

19. (currently amended): The apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the ~~assigned~~ transmitted group identification information is released when the group communication is complete.

20. (canceled).

21. (previously presented): The apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the group identification information is a frequency hopping pattern used in performing frequency hopping communication.

22. (currently amended): The apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the group identification information is ~~assigned~~ transmitted by a communication control apparatus in the communication system.

23. - 26. (canceled).

27. (currently amended): A method of performing radio communication, by a radio communication apparatus, comprising the steps of:

requesting from a first communication apparatus which manages a plurality of sets of group identification information, a group identification information ~~to manage~~ for a group formed [[from]] by a part of communication apparatuses in a communication system;

inquiring of a second communication apparatus whether the second communication apparatus participates in group communication using the group identification information ~~assigned~~ transmitted by the first communication apparatus in response to the request in said requesting step; and

performing the group communication in the group with the second communication apparatus on the basis of the group identification information, in accordance with response from the second communication apparatus in response to the inquiry in said inquiring step.

28. - 70. (canceled).

71. (previously presented): The apparatus according to claim 14, further comprising storing means for storing identification information identifying the second communication apparatus which has transmitted the response in response to the inquiry by said inquiring means.

72. (currently amended): A radio communication apparatus comprising:

a requesting unit adapted to request from a first communication apparatus which manages a plurality of sets of group identification information, an assignment of a group identification information ~~to manage~~ a group formed ~~[[from]]~~ by a part of communication apparatuses in a communication system;

an inquiring unit adapted to inquire of a second communication apparatus whether the second communication apparatus participates in group communication using the group identification information ~~assigned~~ transmitted by the first communication apparatus in response to the request by said requesting unit; and

an informing unit adapted to inform the second communication apparatus of the group identification information, in accordance with a response from the second communication apparatus in response to the inquiry by said inquiring unit.

73. (previously presented): The apparatus according to claim 72, further comprising a storing unit adapted to store identification information identifying the second communication apparatus which has transmitted the response in response to the inquiry by said inquiring unit.

74. (currently amended): The apparatus according to claim 72, wherein the ~~assigned~~ transmitted group identification information is released when the group communication is complete.

75. (currently amended): A method of performing radio communication by a radio communication apparatus, comprising the steps of:
requesting from a first communication apparatus which manages a plurality of sets of group identification information, ~~an assignment of a~~ group identification information ~~to manage for~~ a group formed [[from]] by a part of communication apparatuses in a communication system;

inquiring of a second communication apparatus whether the second communication apparatus participates in group communication using the group identification information ~~assigned~~ transmitted by the first communication apparatus in response to the request in said requesting step; and

informing the second communication apparatus of the group identification information, in accordance with a response from the second communication apparatus in response to the inquiry in said inquiring step.

76. (currently amended): A computer-executable program, stored in a computer-readable medium, in executable form, for executing a method of performing radio communication by a radio communication apparatus, comprising the steps of:

requesting from a first communication apparatus which manages a plurality of sets of group identification information, ~~an assignment of a~~ group identification information ~~to manage for~~ a group formed [[from]] by a part of communication apparatuses in a communication system;

inquiring of a second communication apparatus whether the second communication apparatus participates in group communication using the group identification information ~~assigned~~ transmitted by the first communication apparatus in response to the request in said requesting step; and

informing the second communication apparatus of the group identification information, in accordance with a response from the second communication apparatus in response to the inquiry in said inquiring step.

77. (currently amended): A computer-executable program, stored in a computer-readable medium, in executable form, for executing a method of performing radio communication by a radio communication apparatus, comprising the steps of:

requesting from a first communication apparatus which manages a plurality of sets of group identification information, ~~an assignment of a~~ group identification information ~~to manage for~~ a group formed [[from]] by a part of communication apparatuses in a communication system;

inquiring of a second communication apparatus whether the second communication apparatus participates in group communication using the group identification information ~~assigned~~ transmitted by the first communication apparatus in response to the request in said requesting step; and

performing the group communication in the group with the second communication apparatus on the basis of the group identification information in accordance with a response from the second communication apparatus in response to the inquiry in said inquiring step.